THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI. E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir. With effect from 1-4-2000, petrol and diesel with 0.05% sulphur content by weight have been introduced in National Capital Region (NCR) for all petrol engine vehicles and non-commercial private diesel driven vehicles complying Euro-II norms, respectively.

(b) The current retail selling prices of low sulphur (0.05% max.) petrol and diesel in Delhi are higher by 13 paise per litre and by 52 paise per litre respectively, as compared to regular petrol and diesel.

(c) Yes, Sir. The lower sulphur in petrol will increase the life of emission control devices like catalytic converters as well as on-board diagnostic system and oxygen sensors etc., which are fitted on new generation cars. In case of diesel, the lower sulphur besides reducing the particulate emissions, will reduce the engine corrosive wear thus increasing the engine life.

Creation of Employment Opportunities in Assam

4235. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what are the schemes undertaken by Government to create employment opportunity for uneducated, educated and skill youths in Assam, particularly in the hilly areas and North Cachar district during the last five years and till date; and

(b) the total funds allocated and released for the purpose during this period and total number of youths benefited by the above schemes in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the Government of Assam and the same willl be placed on the Table of the House.